Protest against privatisation of airports

*452. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thousands of employees of Airport Authority had undergone on fast to protest the decision to privatise major airports; and

(b) if so; the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) A country-wide relay fast to protest was called by Airports Authority of India (AAI) Employees Joint Forum from 7th March 2005 to 23rd March, 2005 at ail International and Major Airports. Adequate' Steps were taken to ensure that there was no disruption in the Airport Operations. During the protest period, operation at airports was normal and' no adverse report on flight operations and other airport services were received from any field stations.

New bilateral air **agreements**

*453. DR. KARAN SINGH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to sign a plethora of new bilateral agreements in regions spanning Middle East, Europe and US, which would throw open more capacities on these routes;

(b) whether his Ministry has identified the Middle East packages in Europe like UK and Germany and the use for entering into new bilaterals;

(c) if so, whether any agreement has been reached;

(d) to what extent Government have been able to open its arm to sky policy;

(e) what are total agreements reached with countries so far; and

(f) to what extent such agreements have been helpful as far as India is concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):(a) to (c) Traffic rights for operation of international air services are specified in our bilateral Air Services Agreements concluded